









# After-School Care Strategic Plan 2002

# Purpose

-  Develop a community wide After-School Strategic Plan to improve program quality
-  Establish benchmarks
-  Work together as an alliance and within individual programs to achieve goals
-  Measure and report progress



# Core Concepts

-  An effective after-school system depends upon a strong set of community partnerships
-  A community-wide initiative can help create the rationale, impetus, demand, support, resources and tools to increase quality

# Background

- 📄 *Education Enrichment*, one of five core issues targeted by Better Jobs, promotes collaboration to support higher and more rigorous standards for children in grades K - 12
- 📄 Recommended by Better Jobs Performance Review
- 📄 DCI hosted School-Age Summit meetings August 17 and September 14, 2001 to solicit input on improving overall quality of after-school programs

# Background

-  School Age/Youth Alliance (SA/YA) formed as a dynamic working group to continue work begun at Summit meetings
-  Alliance includes representatives from school districts, higher education, City departments, non-profit agencies, and providers of after-school care

# Background

- While there is support for quality improvement, the diversity of programs and limited funding presents challenges
- After initial discussion sessions on several focus areas, work began in April, 2002 on an After-School Strategic Plan
- September 2002, presented draft strategic plan to the City Council Economic and Human Development Committee

# Partners

 Currently 23 organizations are working in the School Age/Youth Alliance (SA/YA) including:

- United Way
- San Antonio College
- UTSA
- YMCA
- Northside ISD
- Northeast ISD
- Urban Ministries After School Kare
- TDPRS Licensing Division
- Commission for Families and Children
- City of San Antonio

# After School Care Strategic Plan - 2002



Vision: All San Antonio children will have access to quality after school programs that will help keep them safe, improve their academic achievement and support the needs of working families



# Goals

Goal 1: Provide after-school programs in environments that are healthy, safe, secure and nurturing

Goal 2: Provide a high quality curriculum that expands and enriches the whole child and aligns with the school day

Goal 3: Foster character development in children and youth

# Goals

Goal 4: Provide programs with qualified staff, established accountability systems and the ability to operate within optimal group sizes and staff/child ratios

Goal 5: Promote continuous improvement in the quality, availability and affordability of after-school programs

# Strategic Plan

Goal 1: Provide after-school programs in environments that are healthy, safe, secure and nurturing

- ✓ Ensure health, safety and security standards
- ✓ Provide nutritious food
- ✓ Maintain continual adult supervision

Benchmark: By 2004, 100% of SA/YA Programs will use daily checklist

# Strategic Plan

Goal 2: Provide a high quality curriculum that expands and enriches the whole child and aligns with the school day

- ✓ Promote academic, cultural, social and physical development
- ✓ Promote continuous growth toward state and national certification/accreditation
- ✓ Maximize resources through network building
- ✓ Establish linkages between school day curriculum and after school curriculum

Benchmark: By 2004, Texas Rising Stars will increase by 20%

# Strategic Plan

## Goal 3: Foster character development in children and youth

- ✓ Incorporate character development principles
- ✓ Link will Better Jobs Live It! Campaign
- ✓ Reinforce internalization of character development traits
- ✓ Promote character development through after school providers, school districts and business community
- ✓ Encourage children and youth to be willing and successful partners in their education

Benchmark: By 2003, 100% of after school programs will receive Better Jobs Live It! materials

# Strategic Plan

**Goal 4: Provide programs with qualified staff, established accountability systems and the ability to operate within optimal group sizes and staff/child ratios**

- ✓ Recruit and retain quality supervisors and workers
- ✓ Provide training for all staff
- ✓ Provide clearly defined job responsibilities, policies and evaluation tools
- ✓ Establish standards for staff/child ratios and groups
- ✓ Create dependable substitute pool and plans for emergency coverage
- ✓ Establish incentives to pursue training opportunities

**Benchmark: By 2004, 85% of SA/YA programs will offer incentives to promote staff retention**

# Strategic Plan

**Goal 5: Promote continuous improvement in the quality, availability and affordability of after-school programs**

- ✓ Build a coalition representative of stakeholders
- ✓ Increase community awareness
- ✓ Focus on partnering to promote quality and sustainability
- ✓ Promote self-assessments in quality improvement process
- ✓ Establish key indicators for Progress Report; seek agreements with providers participating in School Age/Youth Alliance

**Benchmark: In March 2004, publish annual Progress Report**

# Next Steps

- SA/YA held a press conference on October 10th for *Lights On Afterschool!*
- SA/YA planning a Community Forum on November 19th (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.) to gather input from stakeholders throughout San Antonio on the After-School Strategic Plan



# Next Steps

- SA/YA will continue to recruit new members in the Alliance to ensure broad representation in the community and to engage public will
- Implementation phase of Strategic Plan to begin no later than January, 2003
- Beginning March, 2004, SA/YA will publish a progress report on an annual basis



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